(c) what steps Government contemplate to stop such unsocial activities by unscrupulous parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One case each was detected in the past few months by Bombay and Delhi Custom Houses where wrongful claims of duty drawback by producing forged documents was attempted. At Bombay a firm in the name and style of M/s. Suraj Exports had presented forged copies of shipping and related documents for three consignments involving total drawback of Rs. 6,04,300 in October/November, 1988 without effecting any exports. The fraud was detected when on suspicion about the genuineness of the claim, enquiries were carried out by Special Investigation and Central Intelligence Units of the Custom House. A partner of the firm was apprehended and detained. Further investigations are being carried out about the modus operandi, persons involved, etc.

At Delhi, in a somewhat similar case detected in June, 1988, a firm M/s. United Craft International of Delhi had claimed fraudulently Rs. 5,25,047 as drawback on forged documents. But when another similar claim for Rs. 1,37,288 was presented, on doubts about its bonafides enquiries were conducted, when the forged nature of the documents came to light. Two persons connected with the fraudulent claims were arrested and a criminal complaint against them has been filed.

(c) All Custom Houses have been alerted and the modus operandi adopted in these cases brought to their notice. Custom Houses have also been asked to immediately plug the loopholes in the existing procedure to enable quick detection of any attempt of fraud. Severe and deterrent action in both departmental adjudication and in courts of law will be taken, as appropriate, against the persons involved.

Export of leather products

229. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the yearwise and destinationwise exports, along with the quantity and value, of shoe uppers and all other leather semi-finished products, separately from 1980-81 to 1988-89;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain foreign countries are importing the shoe uppers from India making payments in rupees under bilateral arrangements and thereafter earning hard currency by re-exporting such goods to countries like West Germany; and

(c) if so, what precautions are being taken to prevent such misuse of bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Trade Agreements with Rupee Payment Area countries provide that all goods exported to them from India shall not be re-exported to any other country.

Bank advances given to the rural sector

230. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that compared to the urban sector, the rural sector is given less percentage of bank advances against the deposits made by the sector in public sector banks and that rural deposits are thus diverted for giving disproportionate advances to the urban sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details of deposits and advances of public sector banks in relation to rural and urban sectors separately for the period 1980 to